

REMARKS**RECEIVED
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The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by October 17, 2006.

Claims 1 and 3-4 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,155,925 to Choi. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,800,654 to Levin et al. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi in view of US 2003/0150126 to Chang et al.

In the present amendment, the specification has been amended to add standard headings and to delete reference to the claims.

To more clearly define the present invention over the cited references, the claims were amended to conform to the claims found to be allowable in the corresponding European prosecution. Specifically, the claims now recite a "hot air dryer", rather than a "device". The specification was amended accordingly to replace "device 1" with "hot air dryer 3" as the claimed embodiment. No new matter has been added to the specification. Claim 2 has been canceled.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 as amended defines a patentably distinct set of features that is not disclosed in the primary reference to Choi. Choi fails to disclose a hot air dryer, in which a reservoir for the liquid fuel

communicates via a valve with the fuel cell and the heating element for *jointly* supplying them with the liquid fuel.

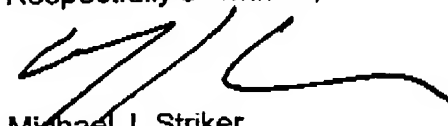
The Applicants furthermore respectfully submit that Choi is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. 102 pursuant to the guidelines set forth in the last paragraph of MPEP section 2131, where it is stated that "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference", and that "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim".

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-4 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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